

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

THOMAS PORTER, Individually,
Plaintiff,
v.
HULCHER SERVICES, INC., a TEXAS
corporation,
Defendant.

No. 2:21-cv-01488 RSM-DWC

STIPULATED PROTECTIVE ORDER

1. PURPOSES AND LIMITATIONS

Discovery in this action is likely to involve production of confidential, proprietary, or private information for which special protection may be warranted. Accordingly, the parties hereby stipulate to and petition the court to enter the following Stipulated Protective Order. The parties acknowledge that this agreement is consistent with LCR 26(c). It does not confer blanket protection on all disclosures or responses to discovery, the protection it affords from public disclosure and use extends only to the limited information or items that are entitled to confidential treatment under the applicable legal principles, and it does not presumptively entitle parties to file confidential information under seal.

2. "CONFIDENTIAL" MATERIAL

"Confidential" material shall include the following documents and tangible things produced or otherwise exchanged: social security numbers, medical records and similar personal

1 information; Plaintiff's financial records, confidential personnel files and related information;
2 personnel files and confidential personnel information of employees other than Plaintiff; and
3 Defendant's confidential financial or business information that is not subject to public disclosure.

4 3. SCOPE

5 The protections conferred by this agreement cover not only confidential material (as
6 defined above), but also (1) any information copied or extracted from confidential material; (2) all
7 copies, excerpts, summaries, or compilations of confidential material; and (3) any testimony,
8 conversations, or presentations by parties or their counsel that might reveal confidential material.

9 However, the protections conferred by this agreement do not cover information that is in
10 the public domain or becomes part of the public domain through trial or otherwise.

11 4. ACCESS TO AND USE OF CONFIDENTIAL MATERIAL

12 4.1 Basic Principles. A receiving party may use confidential material that is disclosed
13 or produced by another party or by a non-party in connection with this case only for prosecuting,
14 defending, or attempting to settle this litigation. Confidential material may be disclosed only to the
15 categories of persons and under the conditions described in this agreement. Confidential material
16 must be stored and maintained by a receiving party at a location and in a secure manner that ensures
17 that access is limited to the persons authorized under this agreement.

18 4.2 Disclosure of "CONFIDENTIAL" Information or Items. Unless otherwise ordered
19 by the court or permitted in writing by the designating party, a receiving party may disclose any
20 confidential material only to:

21 (a) the receiving party's counsel of record in this action, as well as employees
22 of counsel to whom it is reasonably necessary to disclose the information for this litigation;

23 (b) the officers, directors, and employees (including in house counsel) of the
24 receiving party to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this litigation, unless the parties
25 agree that a particular document or material produced is for Attorney's Eyes Only and is so
26 designated;

1 (c) experts and consultants to whom disclosure is reasonably necessary for this
2 litigation and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound” (Exhibit A);

3 (d) the court, court personnel, and court reporters and their staff;

4 (e) copy or imaging services retained by counsel to assist in the duplication of
5 confidential material, provided that counsel for the party retaining the copy or imaging service
6 instructs the service not to disclose any confidential material to third parties and to immediately
7 return all originals and copies of any confidential material;

8 (f) during their depositions, witnesses in the action to whom disclosure is
9 reasonably necessary and who have signed the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be Bound”
10 (Exhibit A), unless otherwise agreed by the designating party or ordered by the court. Pages of
11 transcribed deposition testimony or exhibits to depositions that reveal confidential material must
12 be separately bound by the court reporter and may not be disclosed to anyone except as permitted
13 under this agreement;

14 (g) the author or recipient of a document containing the information or a
15 custodian or other person who otherwise possessed or knew the information.

16 4.3 Filing Confidential Material. Before filing confidential material or discussing or
17 referencing such material in court filings, the filing party shall confer with the designating party
18 to determine whether the designating party will remove the confidential designation, whether the
19 document can be redacted, or whether a motion to seal or stipulation and proposed order is
20 warranted. If a party seeks to file a motion to seal a document, the filing party will provide
21 certification (including the date, manner, and participants of the conference) that the parties have
22 met and conferred in an attempt to reach an agreement on the need to file the document under seal,
23 to minimize the amount of material filing under seal, and to explore redaction and other alternatives
24 to filing under seal in accordance with Local Rule 5(g)(3)(A).

25 The parties agree to comply with Local Rule 5(g)(3)(B) such that a motion to seal a
26 document will include a specific statement of the applicable legal standard and the reasons for
27 keeping a document under seal, including an explanation of: (1) the legitimate private or public
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1 interest that warrant the relief sought; (2) the injury that will result if the relief sought is not
 2 granted; and (3) why a less restrictive alternative to the relief is not sufficient.

3 5. DESIGNATING PROTECTED MATERIAL

4 5.1 Exercise of Restraint and Care in Designating Material for Protection. Each party
 5 or non-party that designates information or items for protection under this agreement must take
 6 care to limit any such designation to specific material that qualifies under the appropriate
 7 standards. The designating party must designate for protection only those parts of material,
 8 documents, items, or oral or written communications that qualify, so that other portions of the
 9 material, documents, items, or communications for which protection is not warranted are not swept
 10 unjustifiably within the ambit of this agreement.

11 Mass, indiscriminate, or routinized designations are prohibited. Designations that are
 12 shown to be clearly unjustified or that have been made for an improper purpose (*e.g.*, to
 13 unnecessarily encumber or delay the case development process or to impose unnecessary expenses
 14 and burdens on other parties) expose the designating party to sanctions.

15 If it comes to a designating party's attention that information or items that it designated for
 16 protection do not qualify for protection, the designating party must promptly notify all other parties
 17 that it is withdrawing the mistaken designation.

18 5.2 Manner and Timing of Designations. Except as otherwise provided in this
 19 agreement (see, *e.g.*, second paragraph of section 5.2(a) below), or as otherwise stipulated or
 20 ordered, disclosure or discovery material that qualifies for protection under this agreement must
 21 be clearly so designated before or when the material is disclosed or produced.

22 (a) Information in documentary form: (*e.g.*, paper or electronic documents and
 23 deposition exhibits, but excluding transcripts of depositions or other pretrial or trial proceedings),
 24 the designating party must affix the word "CONFIDENTIAL" to each page that contains
 25 confidential material. If only a portion or portions of the material on a page qualifies for protection,
 26 the producing party also must clearly identify the protected portion(s) (*e.g.*, by making appropriate
 27 markings in the margins).

(b) Testimony given in deposition or in other pretrial proceedings: the parties and any participating non-parties must identify on the record, during the deposition or other pretrial proceeding, all protected testimony, without prejudice to their right to so designate other testimony after reviewing the transcript. Any party or non-party may, within fifteen days after receiving the transcript of the deposition or other pretrial proceeding, designate portions of the transcript, or exhibits thereto, as confidential. If a party or non-party desires to protect confidential information at trial, the issue should be addressed during the pre-trial conference.

(c) Other tangible items: the producing party must affix in a prominent place on the exterior of the container or containers in which the information or item is stored the word "CONFIDENTIAL." If only a portion or portions of the information or item warrant protection, the producing party, to the extent practicable, shall identify the protected portion(s).

5.3 Inadvertent Failures to Designate. If timely corrected, an inadvertent failure to designate qualified information or items does not, standing alone, waive the designating party's right to secure protection under this agreement for such material. Upon timely correction of a designation, the receiving party must make reasonable efforts to ensure that the material is treated in accordance with the provisions of this agreement.

6. CHALLENGING CONFIDENTIALITY DESIGNATIONS

6.1 Timing of Challenges. Any party or non-party may challenge a designation of confidentiality at any time. Unless a prompt challenge to a designating party's confidentiality designation is necessary to avoid foreseeable, substantial unfairness, unnecessary economic burdens, or a significant disruption or delay of the litigation, a party does not waive its right to challenge a confidentiality designation by electing not to mount a challenge promptly after the original designation is disclosed.

6.2 Meet and Confer. The parties must make every attempt to resolve any dispute regarding confidential designations without court involvement. Any motion regarding confidential designations or for a protective order must include a certification, in the motion or in a declaration or affidavit, that the movant has engaged in a good faith meet and confer conference with other

1 affected parties in an effort to resolve the dispute without court action. The certification must list
 2 the date, manner, and participants to the conference. A good faith effort to confer requires a face-
 3 to-face meeting or a telephone conference.

4 6.3 Judicial Intervention. If the parties cannot resolve a challenge without court
 5 intervention, the designating party may file and serve a motion to retain confidentiality under Local
 6 Civil Rule 7 (and in compliance with Local Civil Rule 5(g), if applicable). The burden of
 7 persuasion in any such motion shall be on the designating party. Frivolous challenges, and those
 8 made for an improper purpose (*e.g.*, to harass or impose unnecessary expenses and burdens on
 9 other parties) may expose the challenging party to sanctions. All parties shall continue to maintain
 10 the material in question as confidential until the court rules on the challenge.

11 7. PROTECTED MATERIAL SUBPOENAED OR ORDERED PRODUCED IN OTHER 12 LITIGATION

13 If a party is served with a subpoena or a court order issued in other litigation that compels
 14 disclosure of any information or items designated in this action as “CONFIDENTIAL,” that party
 15 must:

16 (a) promptly notify the designating party in writing and include a copy of the
 17 subpoena or court order;

18 (b) promptly notify in writing the party who caused the subpoena or order to
 19 issue in the other litigation that some or all of the material covered by the subpoena or order is
 20 subject to this agreement. Such notification shall include a copy of this agreement; and

21 (c) cooperate with respect to all reasonable procedures sought to be pursued by
 22 the designating party whose confidential material may be affected.

23 8. UNAUTHORIZED DISCLOSURE OF PROTECTED MATERIAL

24 If a receiving party learns that, by inadvertence or otherwise, it has disclosed confidential
 25 material to any person or in any circumstance not authorized under this agreement, the receiving
 26 party must immediately (a) notify in writing the designating party of the unauthorized disclosures,
 27 (b) use its best efforts to retrieve all unauthorized copies of the protected material, (c) inform the
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1 person or persons to whom unauthorized disclosures were made of all the terms of this agreement,
2 and (d) request that such person or persons execute the “Acknowledgment and Agreement to Be
3 Bound” that is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

4 9. INADVERTENT PRODUCTION OF PRIVILEGED OR OTHERWISE PROTECTED
5 MATERIAL

6 When a producing party gives notice to receiving parties that certain inadvertently
7 produced material is subject to a claim of privilege or other protection, the obligations of the
8 receiving parties are those set forth in Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 26(b)(5)(B). This provision
9 is not intended to modify whatever procedure may be established in an e-discovery order or
10 agreement that provides for production without prior privilege review. The parties agree to the
11 entry of a non-waiver order under Fed. R. Evid. 502(d) as set forth herein.

12 10. NON-TERMINATION AND DESTRUCTION OF DOCUMENTS

13 Within 60 days after the termination of this action, including all appeals, each receiving
14 party must destroy all confidential material obtained from the producing party, including all copies,
15 extracts and summaries thereof.

16 Notwithstanding this provision, counsels are entitled to retain one archival copy of all
17 documents filed with the court, trial, deposition, and hearing transcripts, correspondence,
18 deposition and trial exhibits, expert reports, attorney work product, and consultant and expert work
19 product, even if such materials contain confidential material.

1 The confidentiality obligations imposed by this agreement shall remain in effect until a
2 designating party agrees otherwise in writing or a court orders otherwise.

3 IT IS SO STIPULATED, THROUGH COUNSEL OF RECORD.
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| 6 Dated: | Dated: |
| 7 | |
| 8 <u>/s/ Thaddeus P. Martin (email authorization)</u> | |
| 9 Thaddeus P. Martin, WSBA #28175 | Sherry L. Talton, WSBA #42780 |
| 10 Law Office of Thaddeus P. Martin | Megan Burrows Carpenter, WSBA #45941 |
| 11 3015 Bridgeport Way West | 520 Pike Street, Suite 2300 |
| 12 University Place, WA 98466 | Seattle, WA 98101 |
| 253.682.3420 | (206) 626-6409 |
| tmartin@thadlaw.com | Sherry.Talton@jacksonlewis.com |
| heather@thadlaw.com | Megan.Carpenter@jacksonlewis.com |
| 13 Counsel for Plaintiff | Counsel for Defendant Hulcher Services, Inc. |

ORDER

PURSUANT TO STIPULATION, IT IS SO ORDERED.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that pursuant to Fed. R. Evid. 502(d), the production of any documents in this proceeding shall not, for the purpose of this proceeding or any other proceeding in any other court, constitute a waiver by the producing party of any privilege applicable to those documents, including the attorney-client privilege, attorney work-product protection, or any other privilege or protection recognized by law.

DATED this 2nd day of February, 2022.



David W. Christel
United States Magistrate Judge